

At page 13, line 25, after "carbonate" please add —, — therefore.

In the claims

In claim 24, line 6, please cancel "ethanol,".

Please add the following new claims:

27. A composition of claim 16 wherein the matrix forming material is a non-polymer material selected from the group consisting of sterols, cholesteryl esters, C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acids, C₁₈-C₃₆ monoacylglycerides, C₁₈-C₃₆ diacylglycerides, C₁₈-C₃₆ triacylglycerides, sucrose fatty acid esters, sorbitan fatty acid esters, C₁₆-C₁₈ fatty alcohols, esters of fatty alcohols with fatty acids, anhydrides of fatty acids, phospholipids, sphingosine, derivatives of sphingosine, spingomyelins, ceramides, glycosphingolipids, lanolin, lanolin alcohols, and mixtures thereof.

28. A composition of claim 1 wherein the matrix forming material is a mixture of a thermoplastic polymer and a non-polymeric material.

Remarks

Claim 24 was amended. New claims 27 and 28 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 - 28 are pending in the application.

The amendments to the claims do not constitute the addition of new matter and support for the changes to the claims may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for newly added claim 27 may be found on page 10, lines 22 -27 and page 11, lines 1 - 15. Support for newly added claim 28 may be found on page 9, lines 5 - 9. To function as a matrix, the material must be substantially insoluble in aqueous fluids and biodegradable and/or bioerodable within the body of an animal. If a polymeric material and a nonpolymeric material are both insoluble in

aqueous fluids and biodegradable and/or bioerodable within the body of an animal, then a mixture of the polymeric material and a nonpolymeric material would function as a matrix.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney, at the below-listed telephone number, if any questions should arise upon examination of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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